

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 05419 01 OF 02 231746Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
EB-08 TRSE-00 /069 W
-----106167 231805Z /62

P R 231730Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7044
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 05419

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, FIN, US, GW
SUBJECT: GENSCHER ON US-FRG RELATIONS

SUMMARY: IN A MEETING MARKED BY AN EXCEEDINGLY WARM
ATMOSPHERE, GENSCHER (A) PRAISED THE
PRESIDENT'S WAKE FOREST SPEECH, (B) SPOKE POSITIVELY
ABOUT FED CHAIRMAN MILLER'S RECENT REMARKS ON ANTI-
INFLATION POLICY, (C) OPINED THAT US-FRG RELATIONS
WERE IN GOOD SHAPE, AND (D) STRESSED THE NEED TO
INCREASE PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE VISITS. END SUMMARY.

1. US-GERMAN RELATIONS WERE THE PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF MY
MARCH 22 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER. AS
HE HAS DONE BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY IN RECENT
WEEKS, GENSCHER WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS TO ACCENTUATE
THE POSITIVE IN US-GERMAN RELATIONS. HE OPENED OUR
CONVERSATION BY NOTING THAT HIS DAUGHTER WAS PRESENTLY
IN THE US AND HAD BEEN SENDING BACK GLOWING REPORTS
ALONG WITH A PLEA THAT SHE BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN THERE
TO STUDY.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 05419 01 OF 02 231746Z

2. GENSCHER THEN ASKED ME FOR MY IMPRESSIONS OF THE
STATE OF GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS BASED ON MY HOME
LEAVE CONSULTATIONS. I NOTED THAT I HAD FOUND GREAT
INTEREST IN OUR RELATIONS AS WELL AS CONCERN ABOUT
REPORTED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US. I STRESSED THAT
THERE WAS A FEELING AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS THAT OUR

RELATIONS HAD IMPROVED IN RECENT WEEKS AND, INDEED, HAD NEVER BEEN AS NEGATIVE AS PORTRAYED IN THE PRESS. I NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S CALL TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AFTER HIS HAMBURG SPEECH WAS A DEMONSTRATION OF APPRECIATION FOR HIS REMARKS AS WELL AS AN INDICATION OF OUR INTEREST IN KEEPING THINGS ON AN EVEN KEEL. I TOLD GENSCHER THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD SOON BE MEETING WITH GERMAN JOURNALISTS AND THAT HE, TOO, WOULD TAKE A VERY POSITIVE LINE ON OUR RELATIONS. SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL WAS ALSO PLEASED WITH RECENT CONTACTS WITH HIS GERMAN COUNTERPARTS AND BELIEVED THAT WE WERE NOW MORE IN HARMONY ON ECONOMIC POSITIONS. I SAID WE APPRECIATED GENSCHER'S OWN EFFORTS (THE BILD ZEITUNG ARTICLE, BACKGROUND DISCUSSIONS WITH JOURNALISTS AND HIS DEFENSE OF US-AFRICAN POLICY IN THE BUNDESTAG) TO PUT A BETTER PERSPECTIVE ON OUR RELATIONS. IN SUM, I SAID I THOUGHT WE WERE ON THE RIGHT TRACK NOW.

3. GENSCHER AGREED COMPLETELY WITH THIS POSITIVE EVALUATION OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. HE TERMED OUR TIES A "VITAL ELEMENT" OF GERMAN FOREIGN POLICY AND SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK HARD TO INSURE THAT THIS WAS REFLECTED IN THE PRESS. GENSCHER THOUGHT THE WARSAW PACT STATES AND PARTICULARLY MOSCOW HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE NEGATIVE PRESS COMMENTARY ON
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BONN 05419 01 OF 02 231746Z

OUR RELATIONS. HE CITED COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO SPLIT THE ALLIANCE ON THE ERW ISSUE IN THIS REGARD.

4. GENSCHER SAID GERMAN LEADERS HAD READ WITH GREAT INTEREST AND SATISFACTION PRESIDENT CARTER'S WAKE FOREST ADDRESS. HE SPOKE WARMLY OF THE SECTIONS ON DEFENSE POLICY NOTING THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S EMPHASIS ON MAINTAINING OUR MILITARY STRENGTH AND ON THE US ENGAGEMENT IN EUROPE. THEY ALSO WELCOMED HIS REMARKS ON FLEXIBLE RESPONSE AND ON THE NATO LONG-TERM PROGRAM TO DEVELOP CONVENTIONAL STRENGTH. NO LESS IMPORTANT WAS THE DETERMINATION EXPRESSED BY THE PRESIDENT TO OPPOSE SOVIET-SPONSORED INSURGENCY IN THE THIRD WORLD. GENSCHER SAID THE WEST MUST MAKE CLEAR TO MOSCOW THAT WE HAVE GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND A GLOBAL POLICY. THE SOVIETS MUST BE MADE AWARE THAT THEIR ACTIONS IN ONE AREA OF THE WORLD WILL HAVE AN EFFECT ON THEIR OVERALL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WEST. WE CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT TO WHAT HAPPENS IN THE MIDDLE EAST OR AFRICA SINCE EVENTS THERE AFFECT NATO SECURITY AS A WHOLE.

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PAGE 01 BONN 05419 02 OF 02 231743Z
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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 05419

5. GENSCHER SAID OUR ECONOMIC DIFFERENCES HAD BEEN VASTLY OVERDRAWN IN THE PRESS. BOTH HE AND ECONOMICS MINISTER LAMBSDORFF HAD BEEN PLEASED TO READ THE REMARKS OF FED CHAIRMAN MILLER ON ANTI-INFLATION POLICY. THEY FELT HIS STATEMENT MESHEW WELL WITH FRG STRATEGY IN THIS AREA. IN ADDITION, GENSCHER AND LAMBSDORFF HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL'S RECENT STATEMENTS ON INFLATION WERE ALSO IN RELATIVE HARMONY WITH GERMAN POSITIONS AND THIS WAS A VERY POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT.

6. GENSCHER REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES TO THE GREAT IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHED TO AN INCREASE IN PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE VISITS BETWEEN THE US AND GERMANY. HE BELIEVED THE PRESENT LEVEL OF CONTACT WAS INSUFFICIENT, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE YOUNGER PARLIAMENTARIANS. IT WAS ALSO NECESSARY TO BROADEN THE BASE OF PARLIAMENTARY CONTACTS. GENSCHER FELT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT CONTACTS
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 05419 02 OF 02 231743Z

WERE FAIRLY STRONG IN THE DEFENSE AREA, BUT THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE IN THE ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN POLICY SPHERES. GENSCHER HAD SPOKEN RECENTLY TO BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT CARSTENS ABOUT THE LATTER'S DISCUSSIONS IN THE US AND THEY WERE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON THE NEED TO INCREASE PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGES.

7. AT THE CLOSE OF OUR DISCUSSION, GENSCHER SUGGESTED THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE ISSUE A PRESS RELEASE NOTING THAT WE HAD MET IN A PARTICULARLY WARM ATMOSPHERE AND THAT OUR DISCUSSION HAD REFLECTED THE HIGH DEGREE OF CONSENSUS THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THE US AND THE FRG. A STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT WAS PUT OUT THIS MORNING.
STOESSEL

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